

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 IO-10 /072 W

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P R 111045Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIRTY 571

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4070

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MY

SUBJ: NEW OPPOSITION PARTIES IN SABAH

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 3889

1. SABAH POLITICIAN TOLD US JULY 11 THAT TWO NEW OPPOSITION PARTIES WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN NEAR FUTURE: A MALAY-BASED PARTY, CALLED SABAH DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY (SDAP), HEADED BY DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER DZULKIFLI HAMID; AND A KADAZAN PARTY, A REVIVAL OF THE UNITED PASOK-MOMONGAN KADAZAN PARTY (UPKO), HEADED BY STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER PETER MOJUNTIN. ON JULY 10 OUR SOURCE ATTENDED MARATHON MEETING HERE IN K.L. WITH DZULKIFLI AND DATUK ALIUDDIN BIN DATU HARUN, SABAH CHIEF MINISTER TUN MUSTAPHA'S YOUNGER BROTHER AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNITED SABAH NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (USNO). ALIUDDIN REPORTEDLY ATTEMPTED TO DISSUADE DZULKIFLI FROM
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BOLTING USNO, BUT DZULKIFLI WAS ADAMANT BECAUSE HE FEELS

HE HAS COMPLETELY LOST MUSTAPHA'S CONFIDENCE. IN RECENT USNO ELECTIONS, DZULKIFLI WAS DEPOSED AS LEADER OF PARTY'S YOUTH WING BECAUSE MUSTAPHA BELIEVED THAT DZULKIFLI WAS BECOMING TOO FRIENDLY WITH PRIME MINISTER RAZAK AND ANTI-MUSTAPHA OFFICIALS HERE. THERE WAS ALSO TALK THAT "MILITARY CURFEW" MIGHT BE IMPOSED IN SABAH AT FEDERAL GOVT'S DIRECTION, ENFORCED OF COURSE BY DZULKIFLI'S MINISTRY AND FEDERAL TROOPS.

2. SOURCE CONTINUED THAT PM RAZAK HAS IN FACT ENCOURAGED DZULKIFLI TO SET UP OPPOSITION PARTY. ALSO, RAZAK HAS TOLD MOJUNTIN THAT FEDERAL GOVT WOULD NOT BE UNSYMPATHETIC TO REVIVAL OF UPKO. SOURCE COMMENTED THAT PARTIES WILL BE FORMED IN NEXT FEW WEEKS IN TIME FOR MID-OCTOBER STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

3. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM THIS REPORT, IT APPEARS PM RAZAK MAY BE SUCCESSFUL IN BREAKING MUSTAPHA'S TIGHT HOLD ON SABAH POLITICS. USNO, IN AMALGAMATION OF MALAY AND KADAZAN POLITICAL GROUPS, HAS ALWAYS BEEN FRAGILE AND HAS SURVIVED ESSENTIALLY ONLY BECAUSE OF MUSTAPHA'S STRONG LEADERSHIP. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, WHETHER USNO'S FRAGMENTATION WILL RESULT IN MUSTAPHA'S DOWNFALL (REFTEL) OR WHETHER MUSTAPHA CAN STILL PACIFY THE DISSIDENT POLITICAL ELEMENTS. (NOTE: AS FAR AS WE AWARE, THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN DZULKIFLI'S SDAP AND PENINSULAR MALAYSIAN OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY, A CHINESE-BASED DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY.)
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